

Resources Inventory and Assessment Division

Monthly Update

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RIAD activities in June/July 2008

Imagery Acquisition and Interpretation

National LiDAR Acquisition Initiative. The U.S. Geological Survey is planning a national LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) acquisition in FY 2010 and will be seeking partnerships with other Federal and State agencies. RIAD is developing a strategy to ensure that NRCS leadership is fully aware of the LiDAR technology and how it can be used to benefit NRCS programs and activities. jerry.harlow@wdc.usda.gov

Watershed Dams Pilot. RIAD staff are helping define the requirements for using remote sensing for annual operation and maintenance inspections and for rehabilitation of dams. A pilot study is being planned to evaluate the use of NAIP, large-scale aerial photography, and LiDAR for watershed dams. jerry.harlow@wdc.usda.gov

RSL Brochure Updated, Reposted

The online brochure describing the Remote Sensing Labs has been updated to reflect the labs' expanded responsibilities and their new leadership. The new brochure is available online at [ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/nri/web/RSLbrochure0608.pdf](http://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/nri/web/RSLbrochure0608.pdf).
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Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

Expression of Support for CEAP Rangeland Research from Sen. Bingaman. Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico sent a letter to NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster and ARS Administrator Ed Knipling commending both agencies on their cooperative working relationship on rangeland management issues at the ARS Jornada Experimental Range in Las Cruces, NM, and supporting continued funding for these cooperative efforts. Sen. Bingaman, who is chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee, cited CEAP as a key element in the partnership. leonard.jolley@wdc.usda.gov

CSREES Grazing Lands RFA Closes. A CSREES Request for Applications (RFA) on ecosystem health on grazing lands has closed. Nine applications were received—eight for rangeland and one for pasture. A panel to review the submissions will be convened soon, with up to three of the projects expected to be funded. leonard.jolley@wdc.usda.gov

Chesapeake Bay Cooperation. RIAD staff are working with staff from the Chesapeake Bay Program to share information on animal unit and manure nutrient estimates for use with the HUMUS and SPARROW models. robert.kellogg@wdc.usda.gov

National Resources Inventory (NRI)

2006 NRI Data Collection Complete, 2007 Underway

The Remote Sensing Labs (RSLs) have completed data collection for the 2006 NRI and have submitted all data to the Iowa State University Statistical Unit for processing.

Working with staff from NCGC, the Statistical Unit, and Sanborn (the remote sensing contractor at the RSLs), RIAD staff have finalized plans for completing the 2007 Annual NRI. Deadline for completion of remote sensing for the 2007 NRI, including the integration of local data from the states, and submission of data to the Statistical Unit is January 15, 2009. Initial public release of 2007 NRI data remains on track for late 2009.

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Oregon Interagency Rangeland Pilot Project. NRCS, USFS, and BLM conducted an internal review of the interagency rangeland sampling pilot project in late spring and are now developing materials for an external review project. jeff.goebel@wdc.usda.gov

NRI Pastureland Data Collection Protocols. More than 20 NRCS staff met at the Missouri state office in early June and traveled to four field locations as part of the NRI pastureland pilot for 2008. They reviewed data collection protocols for the pilot. Thirteen states are involved, up from five states in 2007. jeff.goebel@wdc.usda.gov; leonard.jolley@wdc.usda.gov

International Statistical Coordination. In response to a request from the Australian government, RIAD staff briefed the branch head of Environment and Agriculture Statistics of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on matters related to balancing agriculture and the environment. Following the briefing, she attended the meeting of a United Nations committee that aims to elevate the system of Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting to an international statistical standard. jeff.goebel@wdc.usda.gov

Related Activities

Farm Bill Requests at GIS Lab. RIAD's GIS lab has responded numerous requests related to the 2008 Farm Bill. To cite one example, the lab produced a map of the four Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program "special considerations river basins" cited in the draft Farm Bill language. kevin.ingram@wdc.usda.gov

RIAD Publications Released. The following RIAD publications were released in June and July through NRCS national bulletins:

- Announcement of availability of April 2008 CEAP Highlights. National Bulletin 90-8-7, issued June 11. Visit https://my.nrcs.usda.gov/PortalStatic/Technology/CEAP_highlights_0804.pdf.
- Establishment of the schedule for States to collect the local data for 2007 NRI. National Bulletin 90-8-8, issued July 25. Visit https://my.nrcs.usda.gov/PortalStatic/Technology/CEAP_highlights_0804.pdf.